MONTEREY NEWS

March 2012
VOLUME XLII · Number 3

The Town

by Maggie Leonard

School Closing Issue

On Monday, February 6, Susan Bachelder met with the Select Board to discuss the letter being drafted to the Southern Berkshire Regional School Committee about the proposed school closings. Bachelder provided the Board with the State Education Laws and Regulations regarding reorganizing the district and offered to assist with any correspondence they send to the School Committee.

Muriel and Bob Lazzarini were

(*cont. on p. 2*)

School Committee School Closure Motion Defeated 2–8

The Southern Berkshire Regional School Committee held a special meeting on Monday, February 27, at the TAC-PAC

(*cont. on p. 2*)

Courtesy Monterey Historical Society

This photo, one of many of Monterey during the period from the 1870s through the early 1900s that will be on display by the Monterey Historical Society in the Knox Gallery from March 10–April 28 (see p. 6), shows the stage to Great Barrington as it is leaving Monterey in the 1880s or 1890s. The carriage barn is no longer there, replaced by a building that was once a post office (a picture of that is in the exhibit) and Tryon Construction's garage.

(*School Committee, cont. from p. 1*) in Sheffield to vote on whether they would send the proposal on closing the three outlying schools, Monterey, New Marlborough, and South Egremont, to the towns for votes at their annual town meetings. The motion was soundly defeated 2 for, 8 against, much to the surprise of many who had attended the sometimes-contentious public hearings.

The meeting was opened by chair Herb Abelow, who began by saying that it if the proposal was passed on to the towns, all three schools would be bundled together. Voters would be asked to either close them all or keep them all open. He felt this was unfortunate but because the wording at the first public hearing was phrased that way, legally it must be appear on the town warrants that way. He commended the energy of the Save Our Schools group and all those who voiced their support of the schools.

Abelow then gave the School Committee members an opportunity to make comments. Most of the members read from prepared statements detailing their views on many of the varied issues. Many indicated that perhaps, or for sure, some or all of the outlying schools should close, but that the current process was too rushed. Carl Stewart stated, "The time is not now."

Dennis Sears felt the proposal was poorly researched and poorly presented by the administration. He presented his list of pros and cons and also suggested that New Marlborough Central could become a magnet school. Catherine Miller said the district, with input from all stakeholders, needed to explore other educational venues at the Undermountain campus in order to provide more options for our children. She also expressed a need for more efficient busing to reduce travel time.

Vito Valentini spoke at length about a number of issues. He felt that if the proposal was passed on to the towns, voters would vote solely on the finances, and there was more at stake. He was particularly concerned about enrollment loss in the district. He also stated that the Monterey School was not sustainable and those students should be educated at New Marlborough Central.

Deborah Mielke felt the district was at a crossroad. She recognized the positive energy generated by those supporting the schools and felt the district could reinvent itself with creative, forward-thinking ideas. She encouraged Monterey residents to run for school committee in the fall as she is not running for reelection.

After all comments were heard, a vote was taken. Charles McSpiritt (New Marlborough), Miller (Sheffield), Valentini (Sheffield), Sears (Sheffield), Stephen Willig (Egremont), Stewart (Alford), Mielke (Monterey), and Charles Flynn (Egremont) voted no on the proposal. Andy Fetterhoff (Sheffield) and Abelow (New Marlborough) voted yes.

— Mari Enoch

General Store Sold!
May Opening Planned

Good news, Monterey! The Monterey General Store has been sold to Scott Cole, proprietor of the successful Caffe Pomo d'Oro in West Stockbridge. Scott plans a soft opening in May, with great things to come in the form of a general store, cafe, prepared and takeout foods, and catering. As Scott is one of the original founding members of Berkshire Grown, we can again look forward to a bountiful general store at the heart of our community. More to come on this in future issues of the *Monterey News*.

(*Town, cont. from p. 1*) also present at the February 6th meeting to find out where the Board stands on the school closings. Select Board member Scott Jensen asked why the issue of the schools is so charged and why residents are so passionate about keeping the school open. Muriel replied that the school promotes a sense of community for students and parents and also directed Jensen to a longer explanation she had written in the February issue of *Monterey News*.

At recent public hearings held in the district to discuss the school closings, the School Committee has defended the closings and alleged that the towns in the district have requested a level-funded budget to bring before voters at the annual town meetings this spring. (See article on

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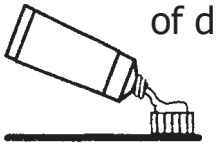

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KONKAPOT BIG BOYS PRESENT
**Restless Rascal:
A Sanjiban Celebration**
March 4 at 3pm
A fundraiser in support of Sanjiban Sellew
Minimum Donation $25 *(cash only)*
General Admission
Reception immediately following at Castle Street Cafe. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres, cash bar.
Advance tickets on sale at: Triplex Cinema, Tune Street, Studio Day Spa, The Snap Shop, Mill River General Store and at The Mahaiwe on the day of the show.

p.8.) Select Board chair Wayne Burkhart attended recent School Committee meetings and stated that Monterey never requested a level-funded budget (the three-million dollar bond requested by the SBRSD was approved at Monterey's town meeting last year).

Jensen added that he is also in favor of keeping the Monterey school open, and that he is trying to understand why the issue is so polarizing and why there is continually a crisis mentality around the outlying schools: "I don't think there is any emergency where the buildings have to be repaired immediately. Why does it have to be 'either we get three million dollars or the schools have to close"? It's an all-or-nothing choice. Of course they [the school district] should have been putting money into the school for years. What about making incremental improvements? For example put $20,000 into New Marlborough and $10,000 each into Monterey and Egremont schools."

The School Committee was to vote on Monday, February 27, to see if they would request that the school closings be brought before the annual town meetings of each of the district towns this spring (four of the five district towns have to approve a school's closure). (Late-breaking update: On Feb. 27 the School Committee voted 8–2 not to send the request to town meetings. See article on p. 1.) Monterey's annual town meeting will be held on Saturday, May 5. School Committee chair Herb Abelow was quoted in the *Berkshire Eagle* as saying that no matter how the School Committee votes there is still the matter of how to fund outlying schools.

Lynn Webster

Though the weather this winter has been rather mild, the ten children at the Monterey School still enjoyed a nice morning ice skating with their teacher Lynn Webster and their P.E. teacher Kelly Milan at the Monterey rink! Thanks to the many community members who make this possible!

Executive Session

Also on February 6 the Select Board voted to go into executive session with Town Counsel to review "potential litigation, collective bargaining and contracts, and an alleged violation of the Open Meeting Law by the Select Board." At 10:15 am a motion was made to go into executive session, and the meeting re-opened to the public at 10:59 a.m.

One of the issues discussed in the closed session was a dispute between the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Ehrlichs, who have a home near Kutshers Sports Academy (KSA). Subsequently the ZBA met on Wednesday, February 16, and the minutes of that meeting have been released to the public. KSA applied for and obtained from the ZBA a permit to operate year-round. The Ehrlichs have disputed the permit and requested that conditions be implemented to ameliorate the effects of KSA's operation. The ZBA reviewed the Ehrlich's conditions and found them to be punitive to the extent that they could restrict KSA's right to operate the camp. The ZBA rejected the Ehrlich's proposed

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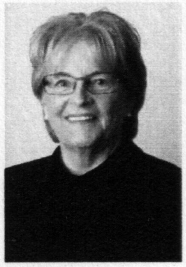

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conditions and determined that the original set of conditions from the ZBA were "sufficient and appropriate."

At the February 27th meeting the Select Board received a notice from the Massachusetts Attorney General's office stating that the complaint alleging violation of the Open Meeting Law was being investigated.

Town Transfer Station

At the February 13th Select Board meeting Director of Operations Maynard Forbes reported that the revenues from the Transfer Station cover about one-fourth of its annual budget, and that the proceeds used to cover one-third of the budget, meaning that costs are increasing. Forbes suggested raising the yearly permit fee from $40 to help offset the operating costs, which have increased to approximately $100,000. Scott Jensen asked Interdepartmental Secretary Melissa Noe to find out when the last time the dump stickers fees were increased. The Board also requested that Noe survey surrounding towns to find out what their dump fees are.

In a related matter, the Select Board received a check for $3,533.12 from Waste Management Recycle America for Monterey's recyclables for the first half of FY 2012 that are delivered to the Materials Recycling Facility in Springfield.

Forbes reported that within the next few weeks we should receive some design studies on the remodel of the Transfer Station.

Highway Salt Use

Maynard Forbes reported on February 13 that 800–900 tons of salt has been used so far this winter, about half of what was used last year. Rain and sleet/ice storms use up a lot of salt, so even though there hasn't been a lot of snow the salt is still needed to keep the roads safe.

Town Nurse Proposal

At the February 27th Select Board meeting the Board met with Kathy Tryon, a registered nurse and a longtime Monterey resident, regarding her proposal to create the position of Monterey Town Nurse. Board of Health members John Makuc, Stephen Enoch, and Bob Annelli were also present, as were the Town Nurse from West Stockbridge/ Richmond, Emily Jarrett, and Wendy Tryon, a Monterey resident and registered nurse. Finance Committee members Stan Ross and Dan Moriarty rounded out the group. (For detailed information about the proposal for a Town Nurse please see the articles in the December and February *Monterey News*.)

Stan Ross began the discussion by stating that the Finance Committee believed the town nurse proposal had merit and should be studied further before putting it before voters. Kathy Tyron asked what kind of data the boards would like to see. John Makuc said that he would like to know how many people need this service and wondered if those people actually use the service. Stephen Enoch supported the suggestion for a needs-assessment study and noted that some of the services outlined in Tyron's proposal are already being done by the Visiting Nurse's Association (VNA), such as screening for high blood pressure and high cholesterol. He added that the real issue may be transportation and that implementing a transportation system to get people to their doctor appointments may be more appropriate for Monterey.

Emily Jarrett, the Town Nurse for West Stockbridge and Richmond, described her duties and her constituency. She noted that the VNA does a great job, but that they cannot work with people without health insurance, for instance. She added that many insurance policies do not have provisions for ongoing care, so people can return to their homes after surgery and not have medical follow-up care because it's not covered by their insurance. Jarrett emphasized that the Town

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Nurse provides an understanding of the patient's situation (housing, family, etc.) and provides a valuable liaison between the patient and the medical community, doctor, etc. She said that although she works primarily with elderly people, she is a "strong presence" in the community and has worked with the schools to institute a program to deal with childhood obesity.

Bob Annelli noted that West Stockbridge and Richmond are larger towns than Monterey, and that they share a nurse (the Tryon proposal is for a Town Nurse for only Monterey). Annelli asked if there is a Senior Center in either of those towns, and Jarrett said there is not. She explained that her office is in the West Stockbridge Town Hall and she works approximately twenty hours per week for both towns. Annelli proposed that, in addition to a needs-assessment study, the town consider hiring a nurse on a temporary basis to see who is actually willing to use the service.

Kathy Tryon related that she works with an 82-year-old senior with diabetes who always has questions about blood sugar and foot care. She said that person does not think she needs a Town Nurse, but that is exactly who does need those services. Tryon also added that she is not considering the position for herself and would not apply for the position if it were implemented in Monterey. She continued that she understands that health insurance is projected to rise 100 percent in the next decade and that supplementary services such as this could help a lot. Emily Jarrett agreed and added that she works closely with emergency services personnel in her towns and they greatly appreciate her work.

Select Board chair Wayne Burkhart suggested that the Board of Health get assistance for the needs-assessment study and form a committee of interested citizens. Tyron agreed and requested that at least a few people with medical experience be included on the committee. Although Tryon was hoping for a faster time frame it was agreed by the BOH and the Finance Committee to withhold the Town Nurse proposal from this year's town meeting warrant until the needs-assessment study was completed and both boards felt they could answer questions from the public.

Town Website Makeover

The Town of Monterey's website is getting a makeover to improve user-friendliness. The town contracts for website services with Virtual Town Hall, an outfit in New Hampshire that specializes in working with municipalities. The new contract involves upgrades to the town website such as new pop-up menus that appear when you hover your cursor on the subject and improved graphics. The original work on the town website was done seven years ago and is antiquated. Another feature, for those with slow connection speeds, is that the website will sense when there is a slow connection and not download pictures and extraneous graphics. Town Interdepartmental Secretary Melissa Noe said that the Town of Lenox uses Virtual Town Hall and that anyone curious about the upgrades should check out the Lenox website as an example.

Finance Committee Update

This is the busiest time of year for the Finance Committee. The town boards have submitted their budget requests, and the Finance Committee reviews all of them to make their recommendations at the annual town meeting. At the February 27th

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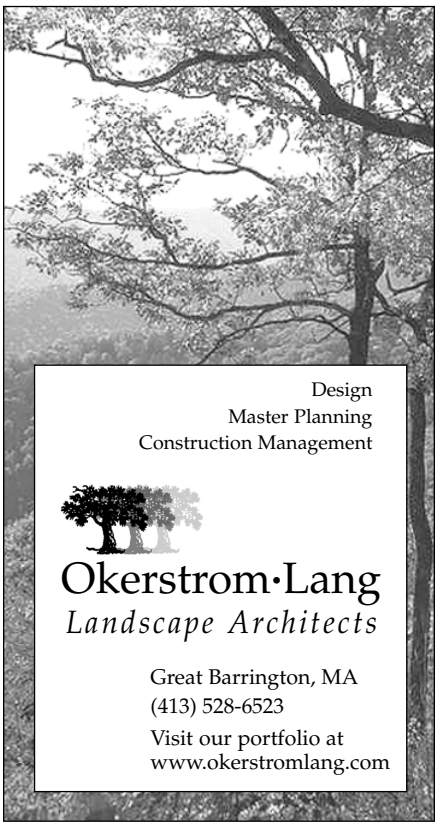

Select Board meeting Finance Committee members Stan Ross and Dan Moriarty met with the Board to review, in general terms, the budget requests. Ross stated that the Finance Committee discussed having an across-the-board salary increase of 3 percent for all paid elected and appointed town officials. Ross added that the Finance Committee is still working on their recommendation for how much of an increase the seven full-time town employees should receive.

Town Hall

Interdepartmental Secretary Melissa Noe has requested a credit card for town use when she is not able to contact either the Town Accountant or the Town Treasurer and she needs either money or items. At the February 27th Select Board meeting Noe said that recently both the Accountant and the Treasurer were on vacation and that she needed funds to do a Zoning Board of Appeals mailing. The ZBA mailings have legally binding deadlines and the notices must be sent on time. Noe said that she doesn't necessarily have the money on hand in petty cash and that a credit card would be a simple way to remedy the situation. Town Treasurer Pat Mielke was not at the meeting, but is on record as opposing the credit-card idea. Noe asked that the Select Board continue to pursue the matter so she does not get stuck for funds in the future.

Town Clerk Linda Thorpe informed the Select Board that she will not be running for the position again when her term expires in May.

Police Blotter

Police Chief Gareth Backhaus reported the following Police Department activity from January 23–February 9:

- Complaint received of disturbing phone calls on Main Rd.
- House checks on Mt. Hunger, Beartown Mtn. (2), Art School, and Hupi Roads.
- Summons served, Fairview Rd. (x2).
- Assisted citizens on Main Rd., Pixley Rd., and in Beartown State Forest.
- Abandoned 911 calls: Swann Rd.
- Well-being checks on Blue Hill Rd. and Hupi Rd.
- Building checks on Main Rd., Beartown Mtn. Rd. (2), Art School Rd (2), and Hupi Rd.
- Assisted with lockouts on Main Rd., Mt Hunger Rd., Hupi Rd.
- MVA on Main Rd.
- Assisted with a medical emergencies on Main Rd. and Beartown Mtn. Rd.
- Suspicious activity reported on Blue Hill Rd; police investigated and found nothing out of the ordinary.
- Walk-in complaint received about burning on Harmon Rd; party had a valid burn permit.
- False Alarms: Hupi Rd., Main Rd., North Cove, Sackman Way.

Historical Society Photo Exhibit in Knox Gallery

The March exhibit of the Knox Gallery at the Monterey Library will be *Monterey on Display*, a presentation of old photographs and maps by the Monterey Historical Society.

You know the town now. Come and see how it looked during the period from the 1870s through the early 1900s. The exhibit will include scenes of farming, early homesteads, and village and school life in Monterey during this time. There will also be a mystery photo contest in which viewers can test their knowledge of early Monterey landmarks. Winners will be chosen at random from all correct answers and will receive a framed copy of the photograph correctly identified.

The opening reception for this exhibit will be held in the Knox Gallery on Saturday, March 10, from 7 to 9 pm., and the show will run through Saturday, April 28. Coinciding with this exhibit in the Knox Gallery will be a meeting of the Monterey Historical Society on April 28, which all whose interest has been piqued by the show are welcome to attend. Look for further details of this meeting in the April edition of the *Monterey News*.

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"My credits are thin but I have soul"
— Sanjiban

A fundraiser in support of Sanjiban Sellew will be held on Sunday, March 4, at 3:00 pm at Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center. The minimum donation is $25 (cash only). There will ne a reception immediately following at Castle Street Café, with complimentary hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar.

Tickets are available in advance at Triplex Cinema, Studio Day Spa, Tune Street, The Snap Shop, The Mill River Store, and at the Mahaiwe on the day of the show.

Local filmmaker and performance artist Sanjiban Sellew has been entertaining audiences near and far for nearly twenty-five years. Sanjiban's films, energetic, bold, and sometimes downright odd, are made with courage and vision, beholden to no one's expectations but his own.

As many of you may know, Sanjiban has been diagnosed with Glioblastoma Multiforme (GBM) brain cancer. GBM is a high-grade rapidly growing cancer, and due to the extent of the tumor there will be no further surgery. He decided not to have radiation and chemotherapy and came home from the hospital on December 30.

We invite the community to join together to celebrate Sanjiban with an afternoon of a selection of his films and writings and to show our support for a true son of the Berkshires.

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Monterey Library Help Wanted

The Monterey Library is looking for someone to work the Friday 4–7 pm shift as well as three more flexible hours per week. Applicants should be computer literate, friendly, and willing to work with the public. Duties will include running the circulation desk and various other library tasks such as preparing books for circulation. Send a cover letter and resume to Monterey Library, Po Box 172, Monterey MA 01245 or montereylibrary@gmail.com by March 15.

— Mark Makuc, Library Director

Monterey Democratic Caucus March 24

The Democratic Town Committee meeting will take place on Saturday, March 24, at 11 am in the meetinghouse basement, to be followed by a caucus meeting at 11:15. At the Town Committee meeting, recommendations will be made for candidates for upcoming town elections. The caucus, which is open to all registered Democrats in Monterey, will determine who will be receiving our endorsement for town offices. Please come and participate. For more information, contact Lisa Smyle at 528-8832.

New General Store Owner Scott Cole at March Potluck

The February Community Potluck was a big success, thanks to Barbara Swann, who presented a film of the 1968 Monterey Town Meeting, complete with lunch served(!) and also a Historical Society Power Point history of Monterey during the Civil War. Thanks very much to Barbara, who was asked at the last moment and came through beautifully.

For the March Potluck, we have Scott Cole, the new proprietor of the General Store, who will tell us his plans and aspirations for the store. Welcome to you, Scott—your arrival has been much anticipated and we are happy to welcome you into the community.

The next Monterey Community Potluck Dinner will be held on March 21 at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse. Please bring a dish to share with a serving utensil, and a place setting and silverware for yourself. Everyone is welcome.

— Barbara Dahlman & Kyle Pierce

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Feb. 8 SBRSD School Closure Hearing

The fourth and final district School Committee open hearing regarding the closure of the three outlying elementary schools located in Monterey, New Marlborough, and Egremont, was held on Wednesday, February 8, at Mount Everett Regional High School in Sheffield. The meeting was attended by well over one hundred people, and while it was obvious that emotions were running high, the tone of the meeting was, for the most part, more businesslike and nonconfrontational than previous meetings.

Vito Valentini, a school committee representative from Sheffield, reiterated that the proposal was a response to a request for a level-funded budget and that the School Committee cannot close schools—they can only pass the decision on to the voters.

Superintendent Dr. Michael Singleton addressed the audience on several occasions, attesting to the excellence of the education available in SBRSD. MCAS test scores for tenth graders at Mount Everett were the highest in the county. There is disagreement between Dr. Singleton and a School Committee member about whether the MCAS scores showed higher performance from students at Undermountain compared to the students at New Marlborough Central.

When queried about the impact of additional students at Undermountain, Singleton provided this scenario: Five new classrooms would be implemented, if needed. There are currently two empty classrooms, and the other three would be gained by redistributing other programs. There would be a downsizing by two teachers and up to four and one-half staff positions. Without knowing how many of the one-hundred-plus students affected will actually come to Undermountain, projected class size is unknown but is not expected to exceed twenty students per class.

The questions and concerns of the audience fell into several categories:

The abruptness of the decision and the lack of factual information—many felt that there was not enough time to adequately study the impact of the closure of the schools. Where were the savings truly coming from? Would savings in this one area only be eaten up by new expenditures? Would there be increased transportation costs? Would the proposed savings be negated by a loss of school choice students? There was disagreement about who is legally responsible for capital costs to the outlying schools, which are owned by the towns.

What is the impact on the children? Concern was expressed over the amount of time young children would spend on the bus. Will Conklin, a teacher at Mt. Everett, spoke to the issue of community attachment. He noted that village schools are much more integrated into the life of the town, which enhances the students' feeling of belonging to something larger than the school and carries over into adulthood. A longtime paraprofessional in the school district, identified only as "Mrs. D," made an impassioned plea for the smaller schools, saying, "It takes a village to raise a child" and that village schools are an integral part of that process.

The seemingly unavoidable trend of shrinking school enrollment keeps raising its head, and in the end this is the issue the School Committee must contend with. How do we keep the school system viable and excellent with declining enrollment and citizens concerned for their rising tax bills? Repeatedly, speakers expressed their willingness to help keep the outlying schools open by doing research, finding sources of grant money, doing whatever they could to assist the School Committee in getting the information necessary to make their decision.

Scott Jenssen, Select Board member from Monterey, expressed the town's commitment to its school. Muriel Lazzarini of Monterey asked to hear from the School Committee members who had not spoken. Deborah Mielke, Monterey's representative on the committee, responded that she was listening and taking notes and would make an informed decision. Catherine Miller, of Sheffield, also said that she was still gathering information and had come to no conclusion at this time. Charles Flynn of Egremont reiterated that he was in favor of keeping the schools open. Stephen Willig, also of Egremont, opined that folks should go to their town meetings, vote for the school budget, and run for School Committee.

After reminders of the February 16th budget hearing and the School Committee vote scheduled for February 27, the meeting was adjourned.

— Debbie Gangemi, with Mari Enoch

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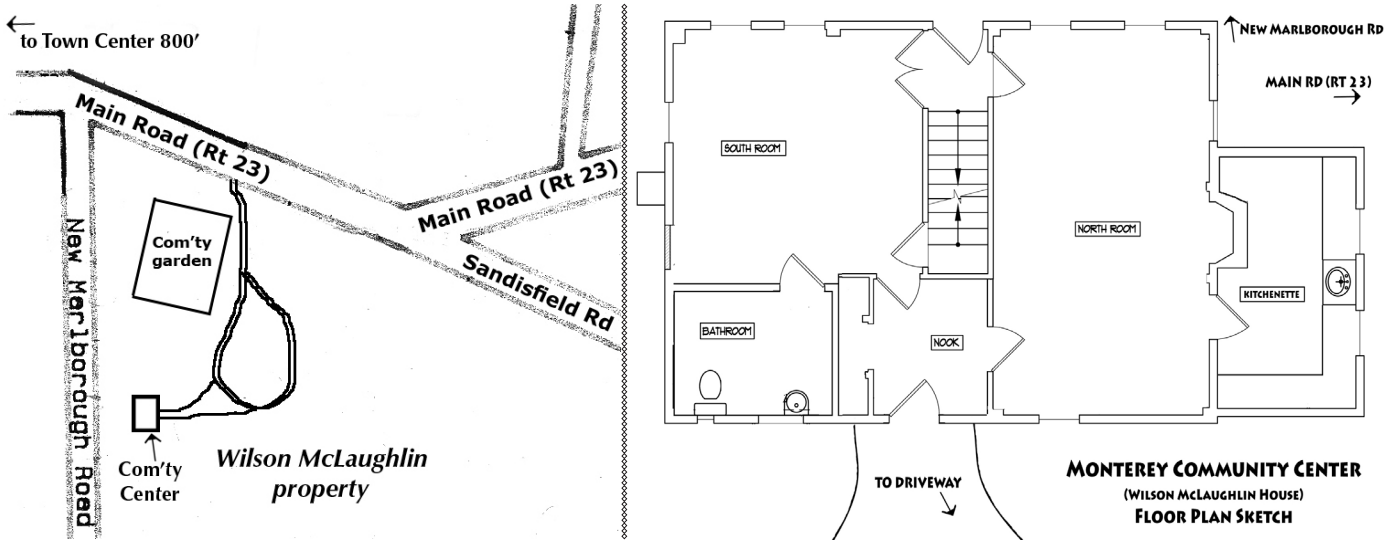

Monterey Community Center Capital Campaign

The Capital Campaign for the Monterey Comunity Center is launched with the award of a matching-funds grant from the Turkeybush Foundation!

The Community Center will be located in the Wilson McLaughlin House at the corner of Main Road (Route 23) and New Marlborough Road. The 185-year-old farmhouse requires repair and renovation in order to be used for artistic, cultural, educational, and social activities for the town. Because the cost to make the second floor and basement accessible are so great, the center will only use the main floor (see floor plan). The center will be a community facility open for use by all citizens and groups, subject to scheduling. It will be a place for a wide range of activities, from art classes and shows to lectures, discussion groups, intimate concerts, and group meetings.

The fundraising goal for the Capital Campaign is $165,000, which will pay for the necessary repair to the structure, the renovation of the main floor, and the acquisition of the equipment needed to create the functioning Community Center. We are committed to raising additional funds following this campaign for operation and maintenance costs. This project is undertaken by a group of volunteer Monterey citizens who have created a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Friends of Wilson McLaughlin House, Inc (FWMH), that leases the house from the town for this purpose.

Our campaign includes not only appeals directly to you, the citizens who will use the center for your classes, performances, lectures, meetings, etc., but also applications to private and public sources of grant money. We hope to hear good news from those grant sources as early as the spring of 2012. And be sure to look for announcements of a series of benefit events starting this summer.

Please consider the enrichment that this resource will provide for you and your family, and for future generations. We welcome you to visit our website, www.ccmonterey.org, for much more information, maps, photos, and history. We are not set up for online donations, so please make your contribution checks to FWMH and mail to FWMH, PO Box 302, Monterey, MA 01245. All donations are fully tax-deductible.

Questions? Please ask any one of our committee members: Mary Makuc, Laurie Shaw, Evelyn Vallianos, Shaylan Burkhart, Christine Goldfinger, Shirley Olds, Cynthia Weber, Lew Scheffey, Gerry Shapiro, Joe Baker.

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How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying at Mt. Everett Mar. 23–25

Since January 16, twenty-five Mt. Everett students have been hard at work on the spring musical, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. From the authors of *Guys and Dolls* comes one of the most delightfully irreverent musicals of all time. A satire of big business and all it holds sacred, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* follows the rise of J. Pierrepont Finch, who uses a little handbook called "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" to climb the corporate ladder from lowly window washer to high-powered executive, tackling such familiar but potent dangers as the aggressively compliant "company man," the boss's whiny, nepotistic nephew, the office party, backstabbing coworkers, caffeine addiction, and, of course, true love. The musical opened on Broadway in 1961, running for 1,417 performances. The show won seven Tony Awards, the New York Drama Critics Circle award, and the 1962 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. A 1995 revival staring Matthew Broderick ran for 548 performances. A fiftieth-anniversary Broadway revival opened on March 17, 2011, and is currently running on Broadway.

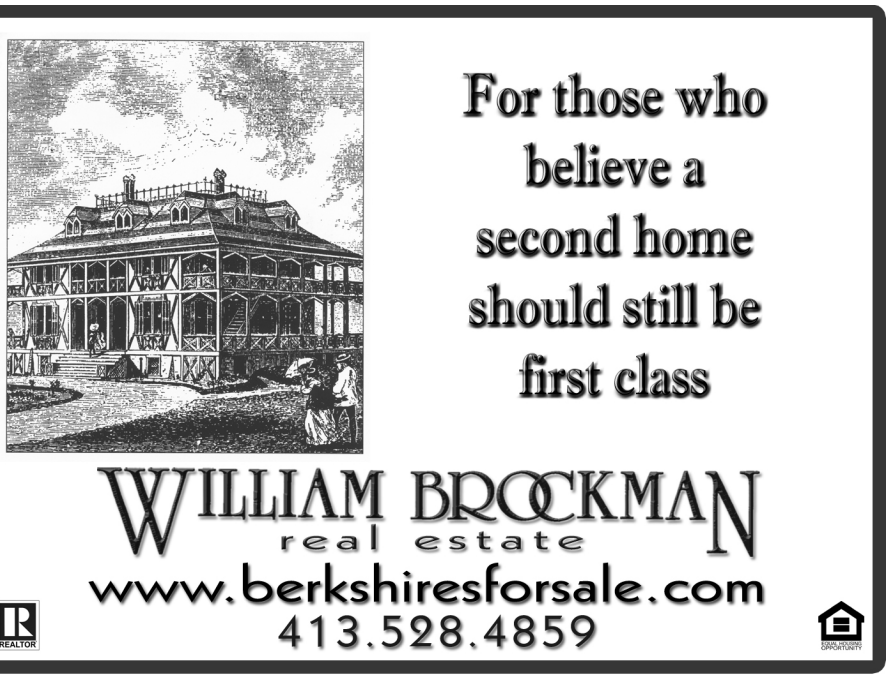
How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying, with music and lyrics by Frank Loesser and book by Abe Burrows, Jack Weinstock, and Willie Gilbert, based on Shepherd Mead's 1952 book of the same name, will be performed at the Thomas A. Consolati Performing Arts Center in Sheffield from Friday, March 23, through Sunday, March 25. The cast and crew feature over thirty students from the seventh to twelfth grades, including Monterey's own Essy Dean and Gabriella Makuc. The show is staged and musically directed by Ralph Petillo. This year's show will again feature Mt. Everett senior Gabriella Makuc as rehearsal and performance pianist.

The Friday, and Saturday evening performances are at 7:30 pm and the Saturday and Sunday afternoon matinee's are at 2 pm. General admission tickets are $8.00. Tickets for students and seniors are $6.00. There will be a brief intermission during which concession items will be available. We will also be a holding a silent auction through the run of the show. All ticket sales and proceeds from the silent auction and raffle will benefit the Southern Berkshire Regional School District's arts programming. Tickets for the performance will go on sale Monday, March 19, and can be purchased in advance by calling (413) 229-8754 x127, or at the performances. For more information call the same number.

Monterey Library Notes
Music CDs

A large percentage of those surveyed for the library's long-range plan said they would be interested in using a music collection at the library. If you are interested, here is how to look at our music collection. The Monterey Library does not own CDs—but we are part of CWMARS, and anything you can find on that catalog is available to you. We lend our materials out to other libraries, and part of the agreement is that they lend out their items to our patrons. The only exception to that agreement is museum passes. To find CDs quickly, go to the Advanced Search section of the CWMARS catalog and use keyword—and be especially sure to highlight "music(cd)" under "limited to:". Type in the name of the album, the group, or the piece of music under "keyword" and see what you find. Our building is only big enough for 9,000 items, and we don't "own" music CDs, but you have the privilege of borrowing from a collection of 9 million diverse items, including music compact discs.

— Mark Makuc, Library Director



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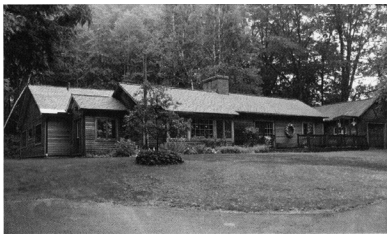

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Bidwell House Awarded Housatonic Heritage Partnership Grant

The Bidwell House Museum has been awarded a $2,500 matching grant by the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area (UHVNHA) for a trail project, one of fourteen grants on the theme of trails awarded this year to nonprofits in the 29-town region of Berkshire County and northwest Litchfield County that make up the UHVNHA.

The museum received a grant to develop an interpretive trail, to be called The Historic Berkshires: An 18th-Century Trail. The Bidwell House Museum (1750s) is one of six eighteenth-century houses in the region that are open to the public. The others are the Mission House in Stockbridge (1730s) and the Ashley House in Ashley Falls (c.1735), both properties of the Trustees of Reservations; the Dan Raymond House Museum in Sheffield (c.1774), property of the Sheffield Historical Society; the Captain Truman Wheeler House (c.1742–71) in Great Barrington, property of the Great Barrington Historical Society; and Arrowhead (1780) in Pittsfield, home of the Berkshire Historical Society.

The trail will tell the story of the early settlement of the Berkshires as illustrated by these houses and invite visitors and area residents to explore this period of our local history. The grant project will include developing a printed brochure of the trail with information about each property, a web page, and a simple electronic brochure that can be printed on demand.

Additional information about the Heritage Partnership Grants and other heritage programs is available at www.HousatonicHeritage.org, or by contacting the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area at 860-435-9505.

— Barbara Palmer

My Day at Project 351

Project 351 is a community service effort that occurs once a year to celebrate "the ethic of service, youth leadership, and the power of community to uplift and unite." It is hosted by the State, and one ambassador is chosen from each of Massachusetts' 351 towns. "Ambassadors are selected by local educators for their exemplary ethic of service and their values of humility, compassion, commitment, kindness, and generosity of spirit." On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the ambassadors go to Boston to participate in a big community service day, in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.

I was chosen as an ambassador, along with four other eighth graders from Mount Everett. We went to Boston and Governor Deval Patrick spoke to us about community service and leadership.

Then we were each assigned to a bus and went to specific destinations such as the Greater Boston Food Bank, Cradles to Crayons, and the MLK Towers to do community service for the day. I went to Cradles to Crayons, which is an organization that gives clothes, shoes, toys, school supplies, books, etc., to infants and kids up to 12 years old in need. I spent the 2 or 3 hours sorting and cleaning shoes for the "kid kits" that are put together when somebody signs up. We had to find a pair of shoes, decide whether or not it was still wearable, then clean it, rubber band them together, and stick the size onto the shoe. Other kids who were there did similar jobs. They sorted clothes, books, toys, and school supplies. Overall, we helped almost 1,500 kids in need after doing just 2 or 3 hours of service.

Project 351 teaches kids how they can help their communities and become better leaders for those around them. It was a very positive experience for me.

— Claudia Martin

Claudia Martin is an eighth grade student who attends Mt. Everett. She is the daughter of Del and Christine Martin.

Please send us news about our youth in Monterey! We would like to make sure our kids are represented in our paper. Contact Mari Enoch (enochmari@yahoo.com) with any events, achievements, or interesting experiences.

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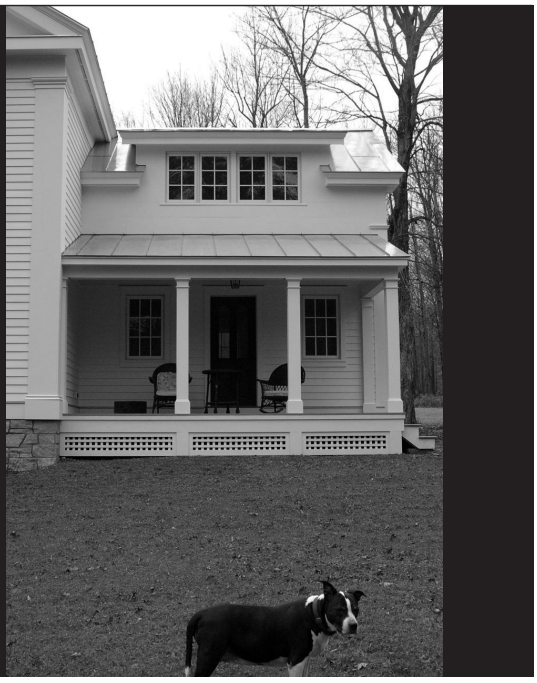

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Verdant Monterey: Submissions Sought for Knox Gallery Summer Exhibit

Verdant: adjective—(of countryside) green with grass or other rich vegetation, of the bright green color of lush grass. In a stretch of the imagination, "green" can also refer to the village green, the core of a community.

This is the theme of the Knox Gallery summer 2012 exhibition. It will be a group exhibition open to all Monterey residents and friends. The exhibition will include work in all media. Start thinking now about how you may want to explore and interpret this theme: literally, figuratively, abstractly, reflectively, any way you chose. Details will follow in next month's *Monterey News*.

Rabies Clinic, Dog Licenses

A rabies clinic for dogs and cats will be held at the Monterey Firehouse in March on a day and time not yet set as this issue goes to press. Cost per vaccination will be $12. Attending veterinarian will be Dr. John Makuc. Check with the Town Clerk (528-1443 x113) or the town website (http://www.montereyma.gov) for date and time.

Dog licenses will also be available from the Town Clerk at that time. Just a reminder: all dogs must be licensed by April 1, 2012.

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February Wildlife Report

In mid-February folks were seeing robins, from Salisbury (Ed Salsitz) to Fairview Road (Kit Patten) to River Road (Will and Glynis Marsh). Ed Salsitz saw three different groups in the trees, Kit Patten watched his robin pecking at the 2011 apples in the compost, and the "huge flock" on River Road were gobbling down bittersweet berries. The winterberries (also called black alder berries) in that area are all gone.

Further avian notes for February include a sharp-shinned hawk seen by Chip Allen at Benedict Pond in the middle of the month and a reliable early morning flock of 31 turkeys. George Emmons sees these on the lawn every day when he drives up to the Fish Hatchery.

Will Marsh reports that he and Glynis saw their first red-winged blackbird on February 23, and the next morning there were about twenty of them, all males, on the ground under the feeder and back and forth to a nearby tree.

Alice Berke writes of a red-bellied woodpecker at her place that has shown up for the third year in a row, also a brown creeper and a pileated woodpecker. She has both downy and hairy woodpeckers at the suet.

In the mammals department, we have deer on Beartown Mountain Road, at Ed Salsitz's house, where two does and three half-grown youngsters visited, the yearlings "frolicking, gamboling, running in circles, chasing each other."

On Blue Hill Road, known by some of us to be the Bobcat Center of Monterey, Keith O'Brien and Chip Allen have seen the "biggest one yet" up the road near Blue Hill Farm. This one "didn't run . . . and watched us for a bit, but then it ran across the field into the woods. We were about fifteen feet from it, and it just watched us for about five minutes before it took off."

This odd, warm winter has got the wildlife observers wondering if their sightings are early this year. Are the blackbirds early? We usually see them in the middle of the sugaring season. Is it early this year? In our thirty-something year of sugaring, we bottled our earliest syrup on February 19, and that was long, long ago. When did the blackbirds arrive that year? Right on time!

Send your wildlife reports to me, Bonner McAllester, bmca@berkshire.net, or call me, 528-9385. Anything wild, alive, or alive at one time.

— Bonner McAllester

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Monterey Town Nurse Proposal: Part III

Currently, in the United States, emphasis is placed on finding ways to control the exponentially rising costs incurred from the chronically ill, and health care in general. All the way from President Obama to our local hospital and doctors, everyone is scrambling to find a sustainable way to deal with this crisis. PBS has aired a few documentaries on the health-care crisis by T. R. Reid, including the most recent, in which he travels across the U.S. looking at several innovative, successful, nationally recognized "medical models" (http://video.pbs.org/video/2198039605).

The Monterey Town Nurse Proposal is a "nursing service model" based on the former "Community Nursing Model" that was used up until the late 1980s, which included ongoing monitoring and management of patients with chronic health problems, in their home. The proposed "Monterey Model," is similar to what is currently being used in Richmond/West Stockbridge. The Community Health Association of Richmond/West Stockbridge (CHARWS) came about when their 75-year-old VNA had to be decommissioned from Medicare because of ever increasing regulations, which inevitably made it impossible to continue running their VNA successfully as a small business. The townspeople of Richmond and West Stockbridge, having experienced 75 years of having their own VNA nursing services, chose to continue to have a part-time nurse available to monitor the ongoing health of their seniors. The CHARWS website explains the services they offer to their elder community (http://web.mac.com/joeroyjr/CHA/Welcome_to_CHA.html).

The Monterey Town Nurse Model's goals and objectives, like the CHARWS model, are to provide ongoing, clinic and/or home, health monitoring and care of seniors; however, the Monterey Model expands the nursing role to provide care, health prevention, monitoring, and education not only to seniors but to all ages, as well as fulltime, part-time, weekend, and summer residents of Monterey. Like CHARWS, the costs of having the nurse would collectively come out of the town's property taxes; there would be no additional out-of-pocket payments or charges to use the nursing services.

Similar to the CHARWS Model, the Monterey Town Nurse Model would be overseen by a Board of Directors. The CHARWS Board of Directors is composed of eleven local residents with various backgrounds, including President of the Board Dr. Larry Cohen, a Berkshire County orthopedic surgeon, and Vice-President Eugene Dellea, the President of the BMC Hillcrest Campus and Fairview Hospital. Providing that the Town Nurse Proposal passes, we will be looking for Monterey-associated persons to fill the Town Nurse Board positions. Anyone who might be interested should feel free to contact me.

In last month's *Monterey News*, the cardiac assessment was looked at in depth. This article will explore the diabetic assessment/visit. Regardless of the diagnosis, the nurse will always take an initial history, and obtain the persons' vital signs. Because cardiac disease frequently goes hand in hand with diabetes, the nurse would perform a cardiac assessment and assess the individual needs of the person to determine the areas of education, and/or intervention required, such as the following recommendations from the American Diabetic Association (ADA):

- Understanding the diabetes disease process, and [referring to MD for] treatment options
- Incorporating nutritional management into lifestyle
- Incorporating physical activity into lifestyle
- Using medication(s) safely and for maximum therapeutic effectiveness
- Monitoring blood glucose and other parameters
- Preventing, detecting, and [referring to MD for] treating acute complications
- Preventing detecting, and [referring to MD for] treating chronic complications
- Developing personal strategies to address psychosocial issues and concerns
- Developing personal strategies to promote health and behavior change

The Town Nurse would work closely with the individuals, their physicians, and, provided permission was given, their families in assessing, teaching, and monitoring their diabetes. To give an example, the >

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nurse would provide special attention to the diabetic's feet, obtaining a history of any previous foot ulcerations or amputations, numbness or tingling in the feet, and provide ongoing foot assessments to any person who has diabetes, pre-diabetes, or circulatory problems, with the goal of preventing problems from occurring or catching changes early.

Who is an appropriate patient for this type of office or home visit? Anyone diagnosed with diabetes, or pre-diabetes; anyone taking diabetic medications; anyone who has recently been discharged from the hospital, Visiting Nurse care or has had a recent visit to the Emergency Room; anyone concerned and having questions about diabetes, anyone interested in prevention screening and education. Once the initial assessment is complete, the nurse along with the person, designs a plan. Perhaps this plan would be just a one-time visit, or it might be weekly, monthly, every three to six months, and so forth. The frequency of assessments is based on the state of health for that individual at the time of the nursing visit.

— Kathie Tryon, Main Road, Monterey
KathieTryon@yahoo.com

Glynis Marsh

Registration Open for 2012 Community Garden

The Monterey Community Garden has three open spaces for the 2012 gardening season, and we invite you to join! If you are interested in growing your own food and flowers along with other Monterey residents, please go to the website www.ccmonterey.org for more information. Registration for new gardeners will stay open until the end of April, but we assign open plots on a first-come, first-served basis. So if you have a yen to garden with us, please download a registration form from the website, or pick one up from the information table at Town Hall, and send it to Monterey Community Garden, PO Box 302, Monterey MA 01245 as soon as possible. Happy gardening!

— Ruth Green

Best Buy Now Taking Scrap Screens for Free

Best Buy has announced that it will no longer charge $10 to accept electronic items with screens through its in-store recycling program. Consumers can now drop off any item, including TVs, monitors, DVD players, audio and video cables, cell phones, and other items, free, regardless of where they were purchased. CRT TV screens can be as large as 32 inches, and up to 60 inches for flat panel screens.

Last year Best Buy collected 83 million pounds of electronics and 73 million pounds of appliances. The company also has a more ambitious goal of collecting one billion total pounds of electronics by the end of 2014. Best Buy works only with certified third-party electronics recycling companies.

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Atrium

In the forest clearing,
the light rode down on
petals of snow.
The trees beyond this luminous
circle were dark-
brown and wet to their
beating marrow.
On Mt. Tamalpais,
I saw heart clovers
the size of a chandelier,
their arachnoid limbs
dangling over
the chasm, aortic roots
pummeling
soil.
Great, dank drops
fell on giant bodies.
I felt I had wandered
into Narnia,
or just America
primeval.
Here, the pleasure
is in the miniature,
in the quick chill
of a stillness,
a low hill,
the two miles I walk
before coming upon
a house, the light
of the television
like a house
on fire,
and two people
watching
in awe and
silence,
as their life burns
on around them.

— Nina Pick

George Emmons' Pen

"In the end, we conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught."
— Baba Dioum, Senegalese poet

If the Earth was
a drum
your pen taps her song

heeding the key change
in color and ink —

from your words & illustrations,

we swim
through the sheen of
a salmon's back

and hover with hawks

in a hush
of frozen ponds.

It may take years
to discern
what nature begs
to reveal,

her beauty left unspoken

'til your pen
taps the veins on a leaf

drawing us closer
to something to love —

as if the Earth
was a drum,

and your pen
sings
her song.

— M. Hamilton

"Garden Gustation"

What's cooking from Monterey Gardens & Farms

Gustation? The Encarta Dictionary states: "the action of tasting, or the sense or faculty of taste"

Cracking the Canned Goods

Winter? Hardly! Seems pretty wimpy after last year. Most of the folks I've talked to about the weather this winter are quite fine with the weather we've been having, but I have to admit I've missed a genuine snowy, chilly January. I just hope we don't end up with a bookend storm in April to match the Halloween one!

Since we've eaten what feels like more than our fair share of root crops of late, I decided to look elsewhere for this month's gustation. We have had this little niche near our kitchen that I thought would be perfect for a tall, narrow set of shelves to house a sampling of our canned goods so that the inventory could be kept "in mind" as we decide what to cook, or better yet, what needs to be eaten. Stephen finished creating the beautiful cherry-wood shelves about a month ago, and what a pleasure to view a jar or two of each of the canned goods we sweat over in the summer months. It's best to keep the majority of the canned goods in a dark, cool place but sometimes (at least for us) it's very possible to forget what lies below in the "cool, dark place."

Some of what awaits us on the shelves are (this feels a bit like bragging, but we came to it honestly): dill pickles, bread and butter pickles, pickled beets, sweet and sour cabbage, assorted jams (blueberry, raspberry, peach, rhubarb), applesauce, peaches, roasted red peppers, pepper relish, dried shitake mushrooms (homegrown from a good friend), popcorn, dried corn for cornmeal, beans, tomato conserve, salsa, and quarts of pureed tomatoes. I often like to tease Stephen about his shop being my personal "local" hardware store, and, not unlike that, these shelves are our own "local" grocery store. It's real wealth, like having the shed filled with firewood!

I've been helping my mother lately with a family cookbook that she is putting together, which has entailed a number of hours going through and editing recipes from her family stash. It's been quite a bit of fun (and work) and has stimulated us both to try recipes we haven't tried in a long time or, for me, ever tried. I came across the following recipe, which originally called for tomato juice, but since I've had our wonderful canned pureed tomatoes eagerly waiting to be cracked, I adjusted it to incorporate them. Just opening the jar and taking in a long sniff takes me right back to summer.

Cream of Tomato Cheese Soup

Underlined ingredients are ours or local.

1 quart home-canned pureed tomatoes
1 onion, chopped fine
3 T sugar
3 T butter
2 T flour
3 cups High Lawn Farm lowfat milk
1 ½ cups Gould Farm cheddar cheese, grated
Salt & pepper to taste

Combine tomato puree, onion, and sugar in small saucepan and simmer 15 minutes. In a larger pot, melt butter and whisk in flour, stirring constantly for 2–3 minutes. Add milk gradually and continue mixing for 2–3 minutes. Slowly add the tomato mixture: set aside some of the grated cheddar cheese for garnish and add the remainder of the grated cheese to the soup and stir until melted. Add salt & pepper to taste. Garnish with remaining cheese.

Won't be long and we'll be starting this season's tomato seeds.

— Wendy G. Jensen
wendygj@gmail.com

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From the Meetinghouse . . .

What Is Anger For?

The Buddhist tradition tells of a monk whose greatest challenge was his hot temper. He went to his teacher to ask for help. The teacher simply smiled and said, "The boat is empty." Confused, and a little angry, at this response, the monk went away to meditate on what his teacher had said.

Even after years of disciplined effort, his meditation brought him no relief. In fact, he became so disgruntled by the chaos roiling in his mind that he left the monastery, high up on the side of the sacred mountain. After braving the wind, the cold, the river running high with snowmelt, he came to the city at the mountain's base.

He had been a monk almost his entire life. Now, he realized, he had to find other skills to offer to the world in exchange for food, clothing, shelter. Physically strong from his years on the mountain, he hired on with a commercial firm and began to ferry goods up and down the river.

As he maneuvered his boat toward a particularly busy dock one day a few years later, he felt his craft rammed hard from the side. He almost tumbled overboard. Once he'd righted himself, he turned in fury to blast the clumsy boatman who had nearly capsized him.

The words of rage never passed his lips. There was no one at the helm of the other boat. There was no one to blame. Shaken to the center of his being, the boatman returned to the monastery to seek another moment with his former teacher.

"What brings you here?" the teacher asked.

"The boat was empty," he replied. "The anger so dear to me is all my own doing."

Rusted enamel sink left behind when Navarro River water level went down after winter runoff and hawk dancing the thermals near the Navarro River. (Photos by Mary Kate Jordan, Mendocino County, California)

Like so many other anecdotes imported from other cultures, this one raises lots of questions. Uh, what was that about the boat? What's anger for: to punish? to defend? to alarm? Is it always a bad thing? Is it always a good thing? And what about cause and effect?

What's anger for? is the question that stays with me. I remember watching one of my coworkers confront a trainee who had potential but was indifferent about the quality of his work. Physically, he was a big man, not someone you'd be happy to challenge. The umpteenth time he'd done the same sloppy job and mumbled the same lame defense, my colleague lit into him. Not in a personal way; she never attacked the man himself. She stood up to him, spoke fiercely, and in his face, about the huge gap between the quality of his work and what was actually required, the gap between the attitude that he carried and the attitudes that would keep him on the job in this place. She spoke and sparked like a roaring fire. She was aflame with fierce, intense compassion. For the first time since he'd come on board, he heard her.

When he left the room, it was clear he thought he was in deep trouble; he was. It was also clear he thought he had pushed her over the edge, but he hadn't. What he'd done was provide her with an opportunity to feel anger. She then had to decide whether to use that anger consciously, that is, well, or to let it take control and use her to abuse him. She chose to use the energy that was present, the energy she felt as anger, to forcefully speak the only language he understood: *No room for excuses, Bub. Shape up. Now.* And he did.

March is "*Lamb or Lion?*" Month. If I were a real lion lying down with lambs, I would eat some of them. If I were a lion lying down with lions, I'd set and protect my territory. If I were a lamb about to lie down with lions, I'd reread the script and probably ask for a do-over. But, what if I'm a human with the ability to learn to choose better ways to use the energy I feel as anger?

What if I get to choose whether I'd rather focus my attention on the rusted sink or the hawk dancing the thermals? Or even whether I'd like to focus on the hawk while taking the sink to a landfill? What if I'm Spirit, on a human journey?

— Mary Kate Jordan

An Invite to the White House

On Saturday, February 11, I got an email with this subject line: You're Invited—Statement by President Obama on Feb. 14. I thought the email was a fake and so, after rereading the subject line a few times, I opened it with a healthy amount of skepticism. There were in-depth details and instructions and the White House logo at the top. What did I do to garner an invite? The White House, it turns out, really appreciates when citizens take the time to share their stories as part of the governing process, and your input stands a chance of being read by human beings. Back in December, when Congress deadlocked over the payroll tax, I took the time to respond to a White House email asking what 40 dollars meant to me. That's the amount an average worker would lose each paycheck, if the cut expired.

As I wrote out my response in the form, I realized that I was genuinely irritated, for lack of a better word, so I ended up balancing two narratives: the practical and the philosophical. I wrote that as a young person, I had a list of priorities and certain plans for the money. First, to build my six-month emergency fund; second, to save an annual amount to put toward retirement (since pensions are rapidly disappearing); and, finally, a graduate school living fund. Those are my priorities for the moment, and everything extra at the end of a month will help accomplish those goals in order. I'm exercising my fiscal planning and responsibility more than some of the politicians in this city I'd like to imagine.

The second narrative connects to a broader economic argument and Republican hypocrisy. I may have my own plans and goals for the money, but other Americans are making heartbreaking choices, and they are using that money to stay afloat. It is for tanks of gas, food, medications, school supplies for children, and other daily life necessities. The money is going back into the economy in most cases. This is what many policymakers want to happen; the wealthier Americans are more inclined to save the money, rendering their tax cuts less effective as economic stimulus. Republicans were suddenly against the cut and simultaneously insisting we pay for it and offset it elsewhere in the federal spending ledger; this is not how they normally approach the prospect of a tax cut. What a time to demonstrate fiscal responsibility.

I replied to the email with the relevant information and reported to the EEOB at 9 am on February 14. The auditorium had about 150 seats in it, and the presidential podium and seal sat up at the front. Someone kindly offered to take my picture in front of it. We settled into seats, talking to those around us; the two gentlemen to my left were based in Pittsburg, where investments in the energy sector are helping create jobs and revive industry. The press corps arrived, and someone from the press office spent time doing light and sound checks; the good-natured banter reminded me of the relationship between the press and the White House as depicted in *The West Wing*.

People were pulled from the audience to stand behind the podium, and we were given a run-through. The President arrived around 10:30, walking across the stage with a wave and a smile to the announcement of "Ladies and Gentlemen,

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the President of the United States." We stood, applauding and cell phone cameras flashing. It's hard to describe what it's like, listening to the leader of the Free World. He seems smaller in person, but he emanates power and charisma. He began with, "Gentleman, before we get started today, I have a public service announcement. Today is Valentine's Day." He got a very hearty chuckle from the male members in the audience.

The President began by thanking individuals for participating in the online forum to help extend the payroll tax cut in December; over 120,000 people participated in the effort. His call to action was simple: keep telling your stories, keep speaking up and helping us help you. He thanked people across America for sending in their responses and told us to keep pushing until there was a picture of him signing the bill and the bill with a signature was posted on the official White House website. Then, with handshakes for those onstage with him, he was off to his next engagement.

Afterward, those who submitted online stories were ushered to one of those elegant rooms with dark wood tables and floors and elegant oval-backed chairs. Staff from the Office of Digital Strategy — they run the White House presence online — were on hand to explain what they do and ask for our feedback on the day. They were young, energetic individuals who clearly care very deeply about citizen engagement. Jamie from the National Economic Council dropped by, and people asked him questions about the actual payroll tax cut policy, job creation, the upcoming budget discussions, and more. They also shared their stories, stories of rising health care costs, college debt, children living at home, spouses laid off from longtime jobs. The White House staff listened intently, sometimes acknowledging they weren't too familiar with that circumstance and other times assuring us that the issue was on the agenda.

I noticed there was a bit of a generational gap, or war almost. Older people in the room thought that young people had it easy, were lazy and not content to stay with the jobs we might have, or that employers wanted us because we were cheap labor. Young people, with most of their lives still to live and to plan for, are struggling with record unemployment, debt, and a career path that looks vastly different than it did when we were going to college in the 2000s. Both generations have valid points, but I found myself getting a little defensive, although I kept quiet because I do not believe generational warfare is a productive use of time or energy.

Toward the end, I tentatively raised my hand, and although Jamie called on someone else, he looped back around to me and I got the last question in. Framing the question around my generation's financial planning conundrum, I asked about the conversation on Social Security reform. Although I know the program is not in immediate danger, I slipped into the mainstream vernacular used by the right and — too often — the media. He reassured me that the program is still in good shape and that the policy discussion on necessary tweaks would happen in time. I hope he's right. At the very end, a gentleman next to me, John, spoke up (and I thanked him later): "If I could just piggy-back off her point, you could start by changing the vernacular around the issue and talking about it as a safe and efficient program." Jamie readily acknowledged the point.

I spoke with John for a while afterward while groups left to film interview clips for the Office of Digital Strategy. All of my conversations that day were incredible and enlightening. These individuals who submitted stories were all hardworking Americans, smart and well educated, working to get by and so excited for this opportunity. Most of us marveled at the level of transparency we sense from this administration, but the older folks in the room were especially impressed. Overall, it was an incredibly rewarding day, both thrilling and inspiring. It reminded me that I once had a dream that I'd work in the White House someday; maybe I should keep it alive, just in case.

— Tarsi Dunlop

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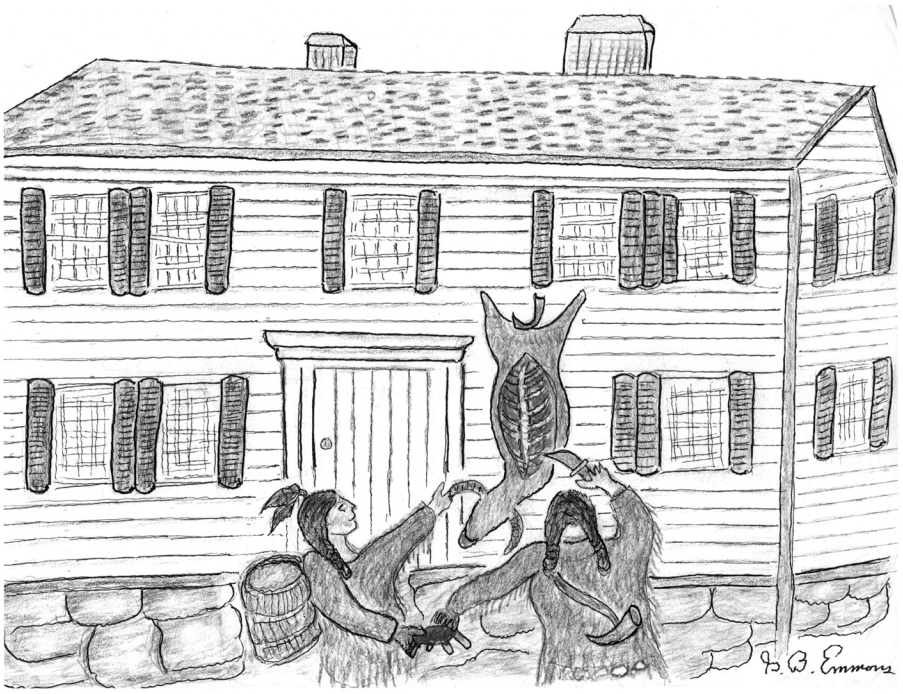


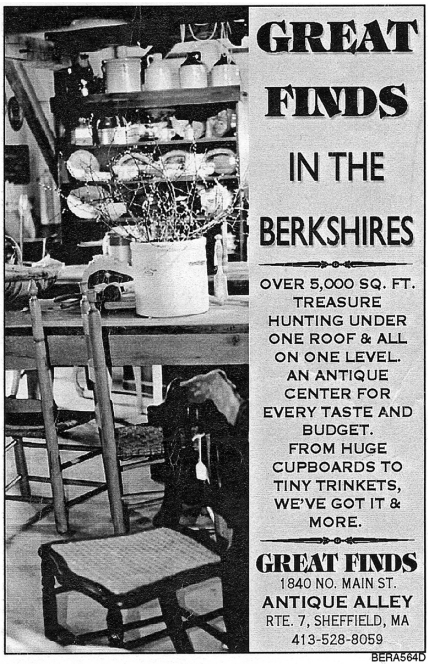
Near the center of Monterey, there stands a historic landmark building that takes us back in time to colonial days! It is the white Brewer House with black shutters that looks over the intersection of Main and Sandisfield Roads. The most recent residents were the Makuc family and Mark put me on to the story of the old wooden meat hook that still hangs above the right-hand side of the front door. And therein lies the tale of early settlers and Indians first written about by Betty Howe for the *Berkshire Courier* when it was still being published.

John Brewer was a generous founding member of Township #1 who hung his deer meat on this hook outside his home to share with needy neighbors, especially with local Indians, who would come and carry some of it away. John had come here in 1739 after agreeing to build a sawmill and keep it in repair for at least ten years. When he arrived he also brought with him a pair of stones for a gristmill. Of his first dwelling, inherited from the Dutch, only a cellar hole survives; it is near Rob Hoogs's house, across the hayfield toward the church parsonage.

Brewer's sawmill was needed to start construction of the new settlement, and both the present Brewer House and the Bidwell House share very similar construction, including chestnut timber frame post and beams, wide white pine floor boards, and the first roofs with white cedar shingles. Today both houses bear the historic date of 1750, but completion of construction was delayed for another three years because of fears of an Indian attack during the French and Indian War. For protection, three existing house were fortified including Brewer's old Dutch residence, plus the Slaton House and the Watkins House. Structural posts of sharpened piles were dug in around them in a circular palisade. Brewer's first place, with its faint imprint of a stockade, is still known as "the Fort" for an Indian attack that never came.

John Brewer built a brush fence around the forty acres that came with his second dwelling to contain a small herd of deer, from which he would slaughter one when needed and hang it for about four days outside the front door. Indians were privileged and did come to carve off what they needed. Perhaps friendships with local tribes formed a lasting bond that prevented the burning of houses that swept settlements further north. As we travel our country roads in a journey back in time, we are consequently blessed to have historic places such as The Bidwell and Brewer homesteads. They still stand there to guard our treasured heritage of a colonial history and to preserve it for future generations.

— George B. Emmons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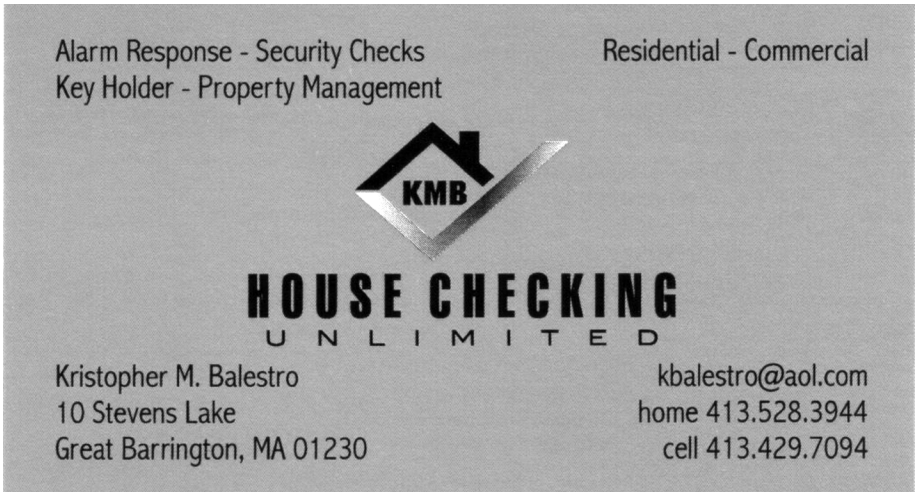

Political Musings from Monterey

Analyzing Americans Elect

Americans Elect is an exciting new circumvention of the political system that promises a nonpartisan solution for those disgusted with the status quo. Although enticing, the political web platform's advantages are counterbalanced by serious drawbacks. Here is my analysis of the fledgling organization.

First of all, Americans Elect is a sleek outfit. Their website and YouTube videos are full of appealing graphics and slogans. They seem to have employed a multitude of consultants and focus groups to hone their pitch, and they are spreading the message with a slew of web advertisements. None of this publicity would be effective without a message that really resonates, and in that area, Americans Elect has a winner. Many people are disgusted with the two-party system and want a third choice, especially a bipartisan one like Americans Elect in which the winning candidate must choose a running mate from another party. And, they want a candidate chosen via direct democracy, not by a convoluted nomination process. The concept of an online convention that any registered voter can participate in dovetails perfectly with current American sentiments and values. Americans Elect also has a crowd-sourced debate that is an excellent idea and seems to be running smoothly. Users submit question ideas that can be voted up or down by the community. Prospective candidates must answer the top-rated questions before the convention.

Regardless of these features, Americans Elect is dealing with anemic organizational growth. Since the fanfare of its launch, signature totals have increased only incrementally. The current total is 2.47 million, enough to get the Americans Elect nominee on the ballot in eighteen states. Though impressive, it is a far cry from the nonprofit's stated goals of five million signatures and a ballot presence in fifty states. Americans Elect is not on pace to approach those benchmarks by the deadlines for signature submission. To make matters worse, there are seventeen states in which no signature collection has yet taken place. Americans Elect is also running against legal problems due the unorthodox structure of the "party," which impedes the likelihood that it will reach the fifty-state threshold and gain the essential credibility this provides.

More disturbingly, despite the organization's pretense of being above the scrum of the two-party system that has divided America, it is very much embroiled in it. Most funding has come from undisclosed wealthy contributors, and the board consists of former politicians and corporate executives (E-Trade, Hallmark, etc.). Meanwhile, the group's Ballot Access Adviser, Michael Arno, has a long history of involvement in signature-gathering fraud. It is also important to note that if the Americans Elect candidate is competitive, he or she will guarantee a Republican victory. When no candidate reaches 270 electoral votes (which would happen if Americans Elect won several states), the decision goes to the House of Representatives. The heavily Republican body will invariably select the Republican nominee as the 45th President.

Compounding these issues, the way Americans Elect matches voters with candidates is clumsy. Voters are asked to answer an endless set of questions that are repetitious and often irrelevant. For example, one I answered was a philosophical question about why natural resources exist. Most candidate profiles are simply a short list of ideological positions sourced from a third-party database that lacks nuance and sometimes accuracy. My best match came up as Jon Huntsman, even though I disagree with him on several key issues and policy prescriptions. Americans Elect has begun unveiling candidate-designed profiles, which should begin to remedy this issue. And, of course, the matches are only suggestions.

However, the biggest stumbling block is that the winning candidate will probably refuse the nomination. Out of the top nine most supported candidates, only three (Barack Obama, Buddy Roemer, and Gary Johnson) are at all likely to accept the nomination. The leading candidate, Ron Paul, has declared he will not. If Americans Elect chooses a candidate who refuses to campaign, it will become a laughingstock and a huge failure. And, even if Americans Elect can field a serious ticket, the chosen candidate will have trouble getting admitted to debates and raising money in a short amount of time.

Americans Elect has a positive message and an admirable mission. The main problems lie in the execution of its lofty goals. The organization needs to make a lot of improvements to become palatable to a critical mass of voters. Until then, it's probably not worth your time to get involved.

— Jonah Carlson

To read more of Jonah's musings, visit www.politicalmusingsfrommonterey.com.

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Book Review

The Knox Trail

Henry Knox and the Revolutionary War Trail in Western Massachusetts, Bernard A. Drew (348 pp., $55, McFarland & Co.)

Last spring a young couple came into the Monterey Library and complained that they had been trying to reach Campbell's Falls in Southfield but were unable to go on the road because it literally disappeared into the forest. After I determined that their GPS was at fault (have you ever tried to drive Harmon Road all the way to New Marlborough?), I sent them on their way on paved roads. If we in this century think that getting around the southern Berkshires can be difficult, and even in mud season impossible, how did Henry Knox find his way through this wilderness with 119,900 pounds of cannons and mortars—59 pieces in all—some of which weighed 11,000 pounds individually?

Bernard Drew, our local historian from Great Barrington, gives us the best and most thorough explanation I have seen in his new book, *Henry Knox and the Revolutionary War Trail in Western Massachusetts*. As a preschooler walking to the Post Office with my grandfather, and later as a kindergartner in the Monterey School, I was exposed to the monument erected to honor Knox's accomplishment. That happened long before I could begin to comprehend the enormity of what had passed through Monterey. My parents took me on the long trip to Fort Ticonderoga and more often to Boston, so I knew the distance in terms of a modern-day car ride. As a Boy Scout, I participated in a 10-mile Knox Trail hike from Otis to Blandford. (I'm sure it was days before I could walk again.) I also remember as a Scout helping by standing watch over the cannon during the bicentennial reenactment of 1976. I also remember going to Jug End to the big party when those reenactors crossed from New York to Massachusetts. We never thought of walking to that spot, let alone to the center of Monterey when those draft animals were pulling their heavy cargo over snow-slicked roads.

I also remember writing a paper in middle school about the controversy in my own town about where General Knox led his caravan. Sheldon Fenn would say, as a farmer who had worked draft animals before his father mechanized the farm, that he knew no one would want to pull a load up a hill and then battle it going down in the snow and ice. Wallace Tryon would counter with how the old center of Tryingham was up by the Bidwell House and the old road up there was the Albany to Boston road. I was partial to Shel Fenn, but as the Bidwell House Museum came alive and research showed all the activity up there I began to wonder how you would even begin to trace this momentous trek.

In order to discuss this issue Bernard Drew starts with accounts of the English fur traders in the 1600s who described the southern Berkshires as a web of Indian footpaths, and then chronicles the Dutch and English jockeying for position in this no-man's-land between the two world powers. None of the paths were more than a footpath, and there were no signs or white settlements to show the right way to get around. In 1676 British forces in King Philip's War caught and slaughtered Narragansett Indians who were fleeing westward to meet up with the Mohawks. Accounts suggest that this battle took place in Great Barrington, as both forces travelled along the trail from Westfield to the Hudson River, though Drew admits this can't be verified. Westfield and Albany had been settled for many decades before the Massachusetts and New York border was firmly established, but the trail between the two settlements was a known route for commerce and more.

In 1732 a tavern was established in Blandford to help travelers on this route. Around that time the English government began to grant land to interested colonists who wished a new start. That tavern was proof of some volume of traffic as the English began to populate the area. Drew's book details the establishment of the towns of southern Berkshire by recounting the trails and taverns that connected this wilderness, known as the "Green Woods," to Westfield. The settlement of the Housatonic River Valley is the story of the English and the Mohicans. They tried to coexist and were successful for some time with the Mohicans staying in what was to become Stockbridge.

Township No.1, which became Tyringham, was created in 1735 by the legislature. By 1739 Captain John Brewer came to town and established a sawmill,

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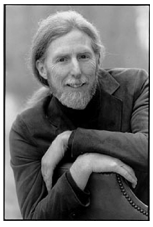

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and, perhaps just as important, he built a tavern. Drew's book is full of accounts of travelers who started in Westfield, made it to Blandford, and next stopped at Brewer's in Township No. 1. From there they would go to the Housatonic, a few days to Kinderhook and eventually Albany. Obviously this path had become more substantial and was improved enough for some carts to make the journey. Drew masterfully chronicles the growth of all of southern Berkshire, and in so doing shows that paths, many created by the Native Americans, began to connect here to there.

The next event was the Seven Years War, during which western Massachusetts was the main route for the British to go overland to battle the French and their Native American allies. Many local English and Mohicans lost their lives in ambushes by the French and their Indian allies. Warfare in the wilderness was quite different, and Lord Jeffrey Amherst had learned this lesson by the time he came through the Great Road in 1758 with more than 4,000 men. When that huge mass of men came, advance parties of soldiers improved the road by widening and making it less susceptible to ambush. Drew's selection of accounts by some of the soldiers who travelled this way shows that travelling on the Great Road was still no easy feat.

Because of Drew's extensive research into the history of this Great Road, it is easier to fully understand what Knox was up against. Making the trek in winter had an advantage because sleds could be pulled more easily over river ice—that is until a cannon falls through and it takes days to recover it, which actually happened. Drew outlines how the Great Road has been moved and shifted over the years, not just in Monterey but all along its route. He also points out that just because the Great Road existed does not mean that Knox followed it exactly. In fact Drew interestingly points out that there are at least three possible routes in Monterey, and perhaps the column could have split and gone different ways. A group of sleds pulled by draft animals would have stretched over a considerable distance, and, as mentioned before, going down could be just as difficult as going up on icy slopes. Though no accounts detail the exact route, all agree that this stretch of the trip was very difficult. Drew himself admits that we may never know the exact route, though he points out that the Brewer tavern on present Route 23 is evidence for the argument that perhaps the caravan went from the Bidwell House down to the present center of town where the sawmill was, and then past the tavern to hook up to the Great Road at the intersection of Route 23 and Mount Hunger Rd. The spider web of Indian footpaths had become a web of connecting roads and paths to taverns, sawmills, and small settlements.

Which road or path Knox took is open to speculation. What happened since that celebrated trek is not—the Great Road slowly turned into just another country road as other parts of western Massachusetts were settled and other modes of transportation took the place of draft animals and carts. As south Tyringham became Monterey, the center of town moved and portions of the old trails fell into disrepair and reverted back to forest. Route 23 became the approximate Knox route, so markers were erected in 1926–27 to commemorate Knox's feat. Drew puts in an entire chapter introducing us to some of the people who have spent countless hours trying to find these old roads and paths. Among those featured is Rob Hoogs from Monterey.

By reading this book I have come to realize that in the 1600s and 1700s the equivalent of the Massachusetts Turnpike went through Monterey. Though it is fascinating to have grown up where one of the most crucial events of the Revolutionary War took place, I am glad that when the time came to construct the present Mass Pike it wound up being north of Monterey. I doubt I'll be around for the tricentennial anniversary of Knox's march, but I do know that Drew's book will be the source for much of the information that will explain to those of you fortunate enough to witness it what those draft horses pulling an ancient cannon down Route 23 really went through in 1776.

— Mark Makuc

Henry Knox and the Revolutionary War Trail in Western Massachusetts is available at the Monterey Library

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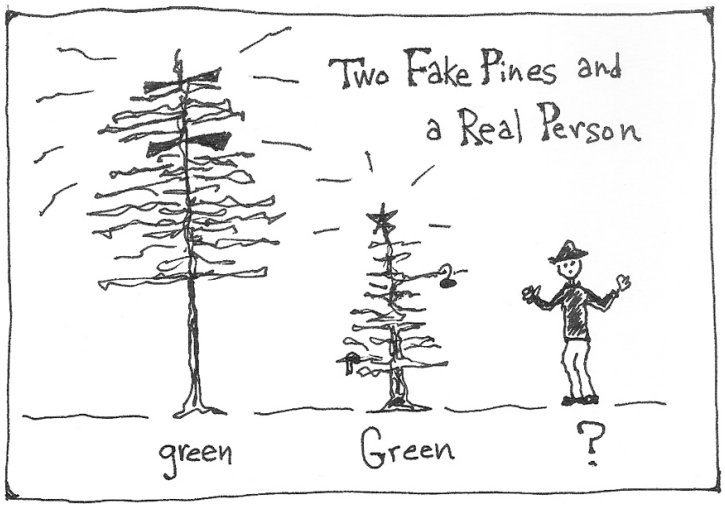
These days when we read the labels we see many a green and natural claim. We see them so much that we may become skeptical and refer to some as "green-wash." Once the profit motive enters the picture, we can be sure the brilliant design-school graduates will show us a little of this and a little of that to appeal to what we like. For some of us this would be natural and green, for others it would be urban chic and maybe Green but definitely not regular old green as in leaves and moss. For others of us the artists now employed by the advertising agencies will appeal to our love of pandas or nearly naked ladies or cowboys in leather chaps. We see these things, we hear the music and the galloping hooves, and our imagination takes us right there. We are the cowboy! We are the skulking conservation biologist in some distant place peeking at a wild panda through binoculars. Maybe we are the panda mom gazing at our adorable panda baby. Our own creativity transports us, and our subconscious links this great "trip" with some kind of clothing or food or cigarettes or something. So we reach for the wallet.

Out in the hills there are bigger-than-life pines cropping up on the horizon. They are green (though not Green) and look a lot like the pines we know and probably love, the real ones. The new biggies are of course cell-phone towers and the art-school grad has drawn a plan for a huge sculpture meant to appeal and appease. Most folks probably go for this, though a few will say, "That's not a real tree. Try to fool me, will ya? Hah. Why don't you just tell it like it is and show me the bare bones, the reality of the tower? I can take it. I have a cell phone and like to use it, so don't pussyfoot around with me with that mega-tree."



A smaller plastic tree has entered many a Christmas scene, in the living room and in the shopping plaza. Years back we said, "Ugh, that is a fake tree! I love the real ones, they smell so nice and remind me of my childhood and Christmas at Grandma's place." Now we say, "This is a particularly good plastic tree! It looks real, in fact better than real, and it will not shed needles on the floor or drip pitch on the presents. Plus I have saved a tree by not cutting it down for a couple of weeks in my personal Christmas, only to be tossed and wasted later. (Plus I only had to buy it once.)"

Ah, plastic. Now we remember that line in the old movie *The Graduate*. "I have just one thing to say to you, Ben: plastic." Dustin Hoffman looks dubious. He is supposed to invest in plastic, move forward in the fabulous world of fake stuff. Plastic is so useful, replacing all sorts of things like Christmas trees and glass jars and cloth made of cotton or wool and parts of our bodies that we had to toss because they didn't work so well any more.

There is plastic fur. You can be happy because no real mink or foxes had to die to make your coat. The real mink and foxes are out playing under the real tree that did not die to make your Christmas like Grandma's.

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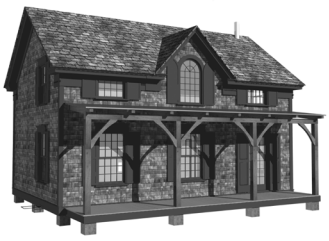

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don't want to cause trouble for the baby panda and we don't want to eat something that will cause trouble to our own selves. We are doing our best here, but we are at the mercy of brilliant art students and the profit motive, so it is hard to tell what's real anymore. The truth is, this has always been hard and even the mink and foxes look like they do so they can pretend they are not there when a big predator is looking for them.

There's only so much a body can keep up with and be good about. Every time we think we have a few guidelines about what is real, true, or important, it seems like it is time to check again. Also, we only have so much to work with, in terms of body and brain. Neuroanatomist Jill B. Taylor suffered a major stroke, recovered, and wrote a book, *My Stroke of Insight*. If you ever have a brain injury, someone will give you this book, and here is one of her insights: "All these years of my life, I really had been a figment of my own imagination."

— Bonner J. McAllester

*The title is taken from Walt Kelly, *Songs of the Pogo* (Simon and Schuster, 1954).

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Employee Compensation

To the Editor:

In 2006 I was a member of the Employee Compensation Committee formed by the Select Board to provide the long-deferred evaluation of salary and benefit packages for the full-time employees in Monterey. An exhaustive study of eight surrounding towns was conducted.

I am not going to use this letter to review all the data, arguments, specific percentages, or dollar amounts. Rather I want to reaffirm what was accomplished and what was recommended. Our study showed that Monterey was substantially, and in some cases dramatically, lower in the overall compensation to the seven full-time employees. Our committee produced specific salary recommendations for the Select Board that were ratified at Town Meeting to provide catch-up cash compensation amounts that created immediate improvements in equity and the basis for further review in the coming years. Our report also recommended further steps and provided a framework for future discussions and decisions.

Here is a brief overview:

1) The immediate goal for 2006 was to catch up from many years without regular reviews or competitive raises in the salary part of the compensation package. This was to be the first step of an ongoing effort to begin a process to address employee requests for review and equity on an annual basis.
2) The benefits part of the compensation packaged was to be the next step in this reevaluation and improvement process in the next year. These would include health insurance, vacation/sick days, boots, jackets — all other things beyond cash salary payments.
3) Regular, annual reviews should be established with all employees. Regular salary schedules should be established for increased pay and benefits that reward performance and years of service. Monterey needs to be able to attract and retain employees at appropriate compensation levels relative to their skills, experience and performance.

In the second year of the Employee Compensation Committee we began to address benefits as part of building whole compensation packages. Not all issues were resolved that year. I was not able to continue on the committee after the second year, but I have followed developments in recent years with growing dismay. I am especially concerned to hear that the Employee Compensation Committee was disbanded.

This year's discussions seem to have left behind the good work of employees and town representatives that was developed in the committee. The lack of a reliable and established process for communication and annual planning with department heads and employees has led to acrimonious arguments back and forth in a mix of confusion and misinformation. Negotiating positions based on incremental pieces of information, assumptions of what may or may not be the case in the future, or unanalyzed statements about certain

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practices elsewhere have been allowed to derail and confuse the immediate need for fairly evaluating whole compensation packages for the specific job classifications established in Monterey.

These compensation packages, by their very nature, are a combination of tradeoffs and tailoring to adequately compensate our employees for the many types of services their combined efforts provide for our town in the classifications assigned to them. They should be built and recognized as a whole, combined unit—not to have single items tinkered with as somehow extra and not part of an integrated whole with relational parts that affect each other.

While Monterey should be evaluated within the context of our region, comparing the job descriptions of Monterey's employees with those in the surrounding towns is very difficult and requires great care. There are huge differences between the employee classifications in the surrounding towns: job descriptions, services provided, town size, complexity, and many other factors. Direct one-to-one comparisons can't always be made between salaries or specific benefits. The specific skills required and jobs performed cannot be held up against differing circumstances and combined job descriptions in other towns that aren't an exact match. Rather, the work of Monterey's employees has to be evaluated within our own unique requirements as a town. To some extent Monterey citizens have to decide the factors important to life in Monterey and spend sufficient and fair compensation to attract and retain employees who are qualified to provide the services valued by the citizens.

Routine annual processes must be established for discussions and planning between employees and town government representatives. These processes help to create and sustain the environment of trust and confidence needed to reach decisions with fairness and dignity for each other and our town. The process this year hasn't met those standards. I urge more direct communication between the department heads and the Select Board to reach a consensus on the current compensation packages in the current budget. Then, bring back the Employee Compensation Committee!

— Janet Cathcart,

To the Editor:

After reading Jon Sylbert's letter to the editor in last month's *Monterey News* I feel that I must comment in order to calm any fears that the cost of our town employees is somehow inflated.

Firstly, he addresses the issue of the employer/employee split for health insurance premiums and argues that Monterey's split is out of line. However, in my mind, it is the total cost of the compensation package (the cost of wages plus the cost of benefits) that is the most significant number. Since the expense of health insurance is just one of the factors that needs to be considered in employee costs, then national and local averages do not necessarily need to apply to our employer/employee split.

Secondly, I am unfamiliar with a "list of demands" that he said was presented to the town officials, but I was present at a Select Board meeting in January when the town employees presented their "benefit proposal" to the Select Board. It was a proposal, not a demand. It was carefully crafted, balanced, and very professional. Our workforce in Monterey is of the highest caliber, and they and their proposal deserve more respect and consideration than seems to have been accorded them.

A few years ago Monterey had a Compensation Committee that studied these issues in depth and made thoughtful recommendations. Because the ball was dropped and the recommendations of this committee were ignored, it is amazing to me that these same employees have been able to come back to the Select Board with such a modest and fair proposal. Their dignity in this regard is laudable.

I am comforted by the knowledge that when the final version of the employee benefits package is provided to the citizenry of Monterey at our Annual Town Meeting on May 5 it will be considered in a fair and respectful manner.

— Muriel Lazzarini

Personal Notes

The Sweetback Sisters, a country music group that includes drummer **Stefan Amidon** and his fiancé, lead singer and guitarist Zara Bode, will be performing at the Dream Away Lodge in Becket on March 9. Stefan is the son of noted musicians Peter and Mary Alice Amidon and grandson of Dean and Fran Amidon. The Sweetback Sisters (the name comes from Zara and her sister Emily, also in the group) have played all over the world and have just completed a West Coast tour that ended "with a bang" at the Wintergrass Festival in Washington.

The art of **Julie Shapiro** is currently being exhibited, through March 22, at the Lenore Gray Gallery in Providence, Rhode Island. And **Michael and Maureen Banner** recently returned from showing their silverwork at the prestigious American Craft Council's craft show in Baltimore.

The editor welcomes personal notes from readers. Email to montereynews9@gmail.com. I can't put them in if I don't know about them. —WM

Christopher Blair
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Calendar

Every Monday except holidays: Select Board meeting, Town Hall, 9 am.

Every Tuesday: Zumba Class, 5:30–6:30 pm, Monterey Firehouse. $10/class.

Some Saturday in March: Rabies Clinic for cats and dogs. Date and time not set at time of publication. Check with the Town Clerk (528-1443 x113) or the town website (http://www.monterey-ma.gov) for date and time.

Saturday, March 3: Republican Caucus, 1:30 pm, Meetinghouse basement.

Sunday, March 4: Konkapot Big Boys Present *Restless Rascal: A Sanjiban Celebration*, a fundraiser to support Sanjiban Sellew, 3 pm, Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center. Reception follows at Castle Street Café. See p. 7.

Thursday, March 8: Free Blood Pressure Clinic with Berkshire Visiting Nurse Assoc., Town Hall Meeting Room, 2–3 pm.

Saturday, March 10: Opening reception for *Monterey on Display*, old photographs and maps from Monterey Historical Society, 7–9 pm, Knox Gallery at Monterey Library. See p. 6.

Wednesday, March 21: Community Potluck Dinner, 6 pm, Monterey Meetinghouse Fellowship Hall. Scott Cole, new owner of the Monterey General Store, will discuss his plans for the store. Free, everyone welcome.

Friday, March 23–Sunday, March 25: *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying!*, Mt. Everett student production, Consolati Performing Arts Center, Sheffield. See p. 10 for details.

Saturday, March 24:

Monterey Democratic Party Town Meeting, 11 am, and Caucus, 11:15 am, Monterey Meetinghouse basement.

Square and contra dancing, 8:30–11:30 pm, Dewey Hall, Rt. 7, Sheffield. Music by Mountain Laurel, caller Ted Crane. All dances are taught; beginners and children are welcome. Adults $8–10, children $5. Information 528-9385.

Monday, March 26: Adult book group will discuss *The Magician's Assistant* by Ann Patchett, 7:30 pm, Monterey Library. Newcomers welcome.

Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is P. O. Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also be left in the drop box on the loading dock of the General Store. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4347 or e-mail montereynews9@gmail.com.

Remembering Sally Emmel

Sally Emmel (Sarah Noyes Emmel) died early in the morning on Sunday, February 19. Born on August 13, 1927, she was the wife, and widow, of Dr. Robert Emmel. Sally and Bob were longtime residents of Monterey and active in the church until Dr. Emmel's declining health required a move to a smaller living space in Connecticut. Locally, they had maintained residences on Lake Garfield and on New Marlborough Road.

ॐ

The Observer
January 26–February 25

High temp. (2/1)	53°
Low temp. (2/12)	6°
Avg. high temp.	37.3°
Avg. low temp.	20.6°
Avg. temp.	29°
Total precipitation (rain and melted snow)	2.49 in.
Snowfall	7 in.

Precipitation occurred on 20 days.

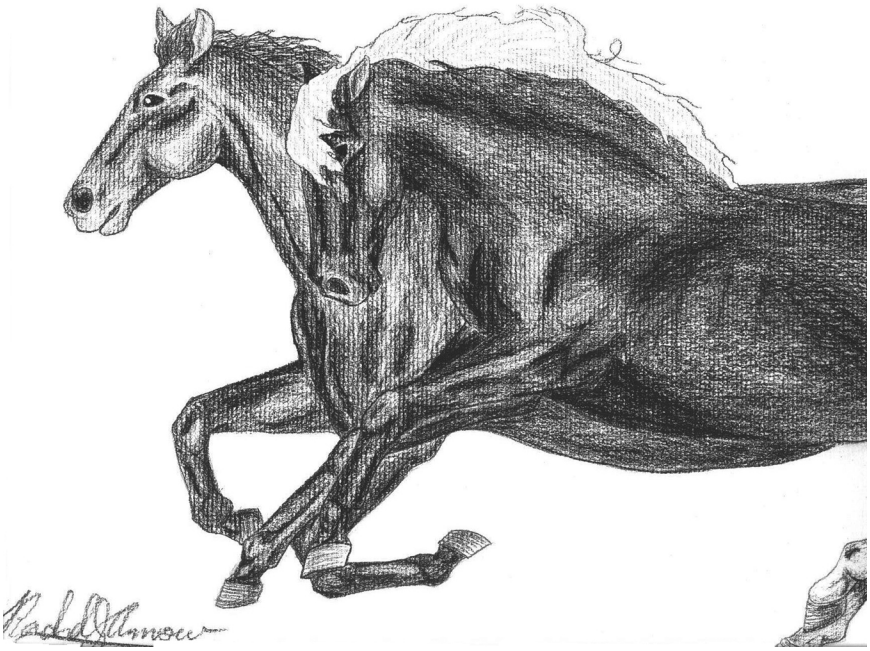
Contributors

We thank the following folks for their recent contributions. Your support makes it possible for us to keep on going.

Mike & Mickey Freundlich
Louise Snyder
Elizabeth Maschmeyer
William & Ellen McKee
Deborah Cate
Judith Kaminstein

Transfer Station Winter Hours

Sunday	10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Wednesday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.
Saturday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.



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Contributions from local and guest artists this month: Rachel Arnow, 26, 27; Maureen Banner, 6, 12, 17, 19; George Emmons, 20; Tristian Goik, 7; Bonner McAllester, 24; Kit Patten, 14.

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